

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01282 021617Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 021232Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

OSD

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: DISCO III

REF: STATE 23740

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES DISCO'S NEGATIVE POSITION RE POSSIBLE RETURN OF HARREL TO ETHIOPIA ONCE HE IS FREE, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT DESPITE CISCO, HARREL WILL BE FREE TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISION.

2. NONETHELESS, AS WE HAVE HAD OCCASION TO SAY BEFORE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR HARREL TO RETURN HERE. THERE WOULD BE EVERY LIKELIHOOD THAT HARREL WOULD BE PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES, DETAINED AND SUBJECTED TO "INTENSE INTERROGATION." DEPENDING UPON WHAT THE SUSPICIOUS ETHIOPIANS

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CONCLUDED AS RESULT OF INTERROGATIONS, HARREL COULD THEN FACE

A RANGE OF POSSIBLE HARASSMENTS ANY ONE OF WHICH COULD MAKE LIFE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT FOR HIM AND FOR HIS WIFE.

3. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ABILITY OF THIS EMBASSY OR CONGEN ASMARA TO PROTECT, SHIELD OR COUNSEL HIM MIGHT BE LIMITED INDEED. SHOULD HE BE INCARCERATED BEFORE OR AFTER INTERROGATION, WE WOULD RATE OUR CHANCES OF SPRINGING HIM QUICKLY AS VERY POOR, AND NO ONE, LEAST OF ALL HARREL, SHOULD BE UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS ON THIS POINT.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT IF HARREL SHOWS ANY DISPOSITION TO RETURN TO ETHIOPIA, USG OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT SHOULD STRONGLY COUNSEL HIM ALONG LINES PARA 2 AND 3 ABOVE AND MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE HIM FROM RETURNING.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, KIDNAPPING, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS01282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0327
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760293/aaaaddwi.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 23740
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCO III
TAGS: PINS, OTRA, ET, CISCO, (HARREL, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006